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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

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Czechoslovak Government

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1. According to a widely believed rumor now current in certain well-informed circles in Prague, Gottwald will probably be replaced by Zapotocky, and Zapotocky's position will be taken by Dr. John, Chairman of the National Assembly.
2. It is also believed likely that Minister of the Interior Nosek will be replaced but his successor is as yet unknown. Nosek is considered too weak to carry out the 80,000 arrests which have been ordered.
3. The wave of arrests has temporarily died down, but observers believe that this is connected with the contemplated changes mentioned above. It is possible also that the population is so aroused that it is not thought advisable to continue the arrests at present.

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